Why Should Skills Wither? Tisdalle Asks

Use of Crafts Rooms in Schools Urged

Pensioners Need Place 'Just to Make Things'

A suggestion that school rooms used for crafts should be turned over to the old-age pensioners and semi-retired pensioners for certain periods each week was made in the legislature yesterday by John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich).

He said the pensioners could use the rooms "just to go in and make things."

Mr. Tisdalle entered a strong plea for a new government rehabilitation scheme for pensioners so "they can live instead of becoming living vegetables."

He said a great deal more stimulation on the problem is needed at the local level to encourage the pensioners to lead active lives instead of taking a dejected, despondent attitude toward life in general.

He described them as "forgotten people . . . considered a liability on society . . . a tragedy on human lives."

Mr. Tisdalle said health and welfare departments should pay more attention to the needs of the pensioners.

What is lacking, he said, is a new type of rehabilitation home . . . somewhere between private hospitals and boarding houses.

He suggested the houses would be cheaper to operate than keeping pensioners in private hospitals and in many cases could be operated by a man and wife, if the wife were a qualified nurse.

What is needed is a semi-home atmosphere which would give the pensioners an opportunity to take care of themselves, yet with care available if they need it.

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

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Determined Delegates Will Fly East To Save Area's Ferry, Air Links

First Appointment With CPR Chief

Three official Greater Victoria spokesmen will fly east in a determined effort to "save" the area's ferry and air links with the mainland.

In the group are Mayor Percy Scurrah, Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell and newspaper publisher Stuart Keate.

Mr. Keate yesterday was named official representative of the Greater Victoria Intermunicipal committee with power to speak for the four municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt.

VICTORIA CHAMBER

He is also acting on request of the ways and means committee of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

The Victoria delegates will seek continuance of the CPR's ferry service on the Vancouver-Victoria-Seattle run and will also seek to balk the application of Pacific Western Airlines to take over air service on the triangle run from TCA.

The trio will meet first in Montreal Tuesday morning with N. R. Crump, CPR president, to present a strong plea for retention of the company's ferry service between Victoria and the mainland "at least until the provincial government ferries are in operation."

DATE CONFIRMED

Mr. Keate said yesterday the Montreal appointment had been confirmed by the CPR president in a wire to Victoria.

He said following the session with the CPR chief a meeting would be sought with TCA vice-president Gordon Wood to press for continuation of the major airline's Patricia Bay-mainland service.

DEPUTY MINISTER

After the Montreal meetings an interview will be arranged in Ottawa with deputy minister of transport John Baldwin, chairman of the air transport board, to voice objections against PWA taking over the triangle air service here.

Mayor Scurrah will fly directly from Palm Springs, Calif., where he has been on holiday, to join the other two delegates in Montreal in time for the Tuesday meeting.

ONLY CHINK

Only chink in the solid front of the four Greater Victoria municipalities was expressed yesterday at the intermunicipal committee meeting by Reeve A. C. Wurtele of Esquimalt. He said he wouldn't instruct Mr. Keate to oppose the PWA application, but approved of his appointment as a "fact finder."

Only a sudden favorable development over the weekend could affect his decision to fly from Palm Springs for the important protest meetings in the east, Mayor Scurah said last night.

KEEP FIGHTING

"I feel we've got to keep on fighting," Mr. Keate said yesterday. "And you can talk better face to face than by wires, briefs and phone calls."

He said the Greater Victoria group would tell CPR president Crump, "While we appreciate your economic difficulties, the suddenness of the announcement (that CPR winter ferry service would end Feb. 25) has left us high and dry."

TIDE US OVER

He said Mr. Crump would be asked if "we can get service to tide us over until the (provincial) government ships go into service—even on a limited basis — maintenance of the night boat service."

"We are going to suggest the city of Victoria has had amicable relations with the CPR for 75 years," Mr. Keate said. "There are historic considerations involved.

"My understanding is that the CPR went in the red in the centennial year only because of the long strike and that over the years they've done well in their business relations with Vancouver Island — and our protest against being abandoned without notice should receive consideration.

"One main value of our visit is to let them know we are concerned enough to fly 3,000 miles to present our case."

City, Saanich and Oak Bay representatives backed the move to press for continuation of the TCA service from Patricia Bay.

KENNETH PATCHEN
. . . 'a writer of unmistakable genius'

★ ★ ★

Defence Team Investigates

Can City Yards Build A-Subs?

Shipyards in Victoria and Vancouver have been visited by defence planners studying the feasibility of making submarines a good part of Canada's navy of tomorow.

The study also covers use of nuclear power plants in submarines built in Canadian shipyards.

First official confirmation of their visit came last night when Pacific Command naval headquarters released names of the two members of the defence team who inspected facilities at Victoria Machinery Depot and Yarrow's Ltd. in the city, and Burrard Drydock shipyard in Vancouver.

Official sources said there would be no further statement at this time.

However, formation of the team to investigate the merits of making as much as half of the navy's strength undersea craft was announced last year by Vice-Admiral Harry G. DeWolf, chief of naval staff.

At that time, Admiral DeWolf said: "The nuclear submarine is shaping up as by far the most powerful anti-submarine vessel there is . . . it looks like the only thing that can catch a nuclear submarine is another one."

The role of the navy, under Canada's NATO commitments is anti-submarine warfare.

Local shipyard facilities were inspected by Constructor Captain S. M. Davis of the navy's ship design section, and W. Mayo, a civilian official with the defence production department.

Unofficial sources said the visit was confined to looking over existing facilities.

It is expected to be some three years before construction of the first submarine can be started in Canada, more in the case of a nuclear sub.

But for the time being the whole matter rests with the investigating team.

Shipyard Work Slackens

Some 32 workmen have been laid off from Victoria Machinery Depot over the past two days as the outfitting of HMCS Terra Nova, a new $15,000,000 destroyer-escort, nears completion.

Some relief for shipyard workers is expected Thursday or Friday when the yard begins construction of a ferry for the B.C. government's projected service from the Saanich Peninsula to the mainland.

Total unemployed registered with the National Employment Service dropped by 10 during the past week, to a total of 5,794, almost 300 less than at this time last year. Registrations of men increased by 57 to 4,016 but the number of women registered dropped by 67, to 1,778.

$77,084 Fire Loss Last Year

Victoria's total fire loss in 1958 was $77,084, second lowest in 10 years.

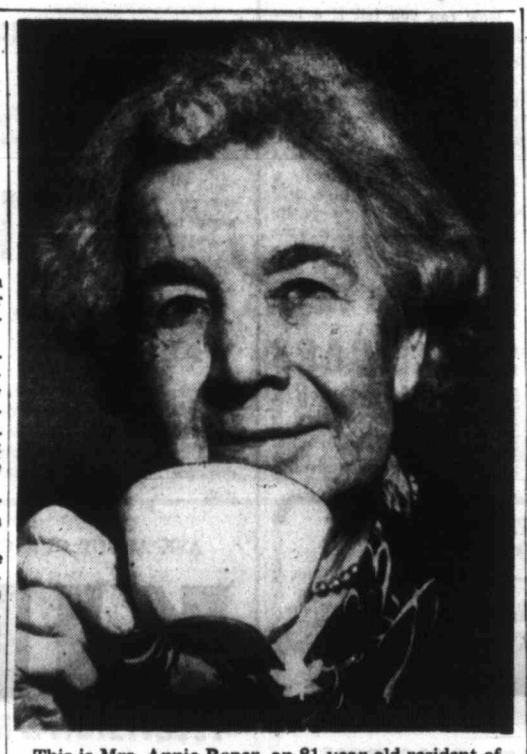
This was the figure for all fire damage and destruction in the city, and loss in fires to which the fire department was called totalled only $66,994, according to the annual report of Fire Chief J. E. Bayliss.

In 1957, the worst year in the last 10, the loss in fires attended by the department was $1,274,258. In 1955, the best, it was $55,581, and the 10-year average was $295,057.

Major causes of fire calls in 1958 were grass and bush fires, 114; false alarms, 110; chimney fires, 110; rubbish fires, 62, and fires resulting from smokers' carelessness, 52.

The fire chief recommended, for the second year, that the Burnside firehall be replaced with one closer to Victoria West and the industrial reserve.

He said that the department was finding it more difficult to leave and enter the Burnside station.



This is Mrs. Annie Roper, an 81-year-old resident of Victoria, whose only income is the $55-a-month federal old-age pension cheque. If Mrs. Roper needs more than her $55 she takes it out of her shrinking bank account.—(Colonist photo.)

★ ★ ★

Meet Mrs. Annie Roper Happy and Contented

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Meet Mrs. Annie Roper, 81, a resident of British Columbia for about 18 months and living on the federal pension cheque of $55 a month, plus a little from her bank account.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111—between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

When the few dollars in her bank account have been used up Mrs. Roper will be restricted to the $55 until she has been in B.C. for three years, and qualifies for the $20 bonus paid by the provincial government.

Mrs. Roper came to Victoria from Moose Jaw, Sask. Her former husband was a railway man and she is eligible for a free travel pass. Each year she returns to Moose Jaw for a short trip.

$28 A MONTH

The small room Mrs. Roper rents costs her $28 a month and $1 for gas. She has an antique, three-burner gas stove in her room. The only sink is down the hall from her room.

The room, itself, is about 20 feet long and perhaps eight feet wide. It contains a three-quarter bed, a chest of drawers, a dressing table, the stove, a buffet, a small round coffee table, and a small kitchen table.

WORN LINOLEUM

There are two patterns of linoleum on the floor, one of them worn. The window of the narrow room looks out onto a parking lot.

But Mrs. Roper is very happy and very contented.

Earlier in her life Mrs. Roper lived on a farm and kept detailed accounts of costs, but now she doesn't bother. She just buys the food she needs and if she goes over her $55 cheque she takes a few dollars out of the bank.

She feels that 14 cents a pint is too much for liquid milk, so she uses canned milk for her tea and powdered milk for cooking.

But with her limited income and tiny room, Mrs. Roper doesn't lack for entertainment. She belongs to the No. 1 Old-Age Pensioners group, attends Salvation Army meetings, goes to St. John's Church and is a member of the church women's auxiliary, occasionally gets free passes to movies and symphony concerts.

And she has many friends. Right now her main trouble is a cold which she is trying to shake off. She has medicine provided by the Victorian Order of Nurses and is staying indoors as much as possible.

★ ★ ★

Vic-Van-Isle Kinsmen's club is considering helping to provide a downtown recreation and meeting centre for Victoria's old-age pensioners.

A story in this column Thursday pointed out the need for somewhere that pensioners could go during the day—somewhere they could meet, talk, watch TV or practice handicrafts.

A meeting of the executive of the Vic-Van Isle club Thursday night will consider this project, along with others.

ONLY PURCHASES

Yesterday my only purchases were four packets of cigaret papers (20 cents), two dry rolls and two cupcakes (11 cents) and a coffee (10 cents). This leaves me with $13.75 for the rest of the month.

Breakfast was a bowl of corn flakes with milk and two slices of toast with margarine and three cups of coffee. Lunch was hurried and consisted of the rolls, cakes and coffee and dinner was half a tin of chicken haddie, heated with milk and margarine, half a small can of diced carrots and two cups of coffee.

Campus Queen

Chosen campus queen in voting at Victoria College, Louise Marcil of Dawson Creek, first-year education student, was crowned last night at College dance at the Crystal Garden. Named princesses were Elaine Ferguson, 19, 1960 St. Ann, second-year education; and Patti Harvey, 18, 950 Arundel, first-year arts.

Island Tax 13 Per Cent

Premier Bennett said yesterday that 13.09 per cent of sales tax revenue is collected on Vancouver Island. He didn't know how much of the gasoline tax was collected on the Island.

Mr. Bennett was answering questions placed on the legislative order papers by George Gregory (Lib, Victoria.)

Oakalla Warden Speaks on Crime

Warden Hugh Christie of Oakalla Prison will speak on "Crime and Punishment" at 8.15 p.m. Monday in Victoria College auditorium. The lecture, open to the public, is one in a series arranged by the University Extension Association.

Beatniks 'Defeated Bunch'

'Nowhere's a Big Pocket' But Jazz-Poet Got Out

BLISS DYSART

★ ★ ★

Seen In Passing

Bliss Dysart doing some bookkeeping. (He is treasurer of Holyrood House. He and his wife **Margaret** have one daughter, **Edna May**, attending Victoria College. His hobbies are curling and gardening) . . . **Don Duncan** selling some materials for a tile-laying job . . . **Bob Godtel** greeting a friend he hasn't seen in a long time . . . **Gordy McMillan** talking about the coming Vic-Van Isle Kinsmen's boa show . . . **Stan Winfield** talking about insurance . . . **Gladys Stark** playing a deduction game with friends . . . **Jack Phillon** discussing birthdays and bingo dates.

As noted U.S. poet-author Kenneth Patchen says, "Nowhere's a big pocket," but with his 27 published books, he has climbed out of the pocket and got somewhere.

Proof of the poetical pudding is currently being displayed at "The Scene," 1306 Wharf Street, the close-in, "far-out" progressive music spot where Mr. Patchen is reading his poetry to jazz.

The 47-year-old poet with the immaculate diction and beautifully modulated voice debuted in Victoria yesterday at a noon-hour Victoria College session that enthralled hundreds of students.

At "The Scene" last night, the college triumph was repeated with a packed house drinking in the "poetry-jazz," as Mr. Patchen calls it.

The winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship at 24 with his first volume of poetry, "Before the Brave," will be on the Scene, scene again tonight, starting about 10.30.

Kenneth Patchen is recognized as the first person ever to wed poetry to jazz.

"It came about naturally enough," he said yesterday in his Strathcona Hotel room.

"I had been interested in jazz for a long time when I found out that many top-flight jazz musicians were very interested in my books.

"One thing led to another," he said, "and in 1950 we put some poetry-jazz on tape in Connecticut.

"These tapes were played over a San Francisco radio station in 1952 and that started it."

The professional writer toured until recently with the famed, but now-disbanded Chamber Jazz Sextet. The group drew rave reviews and broke attendance records in many places.

Off to Greenwich Village

He has also appeared on TV and will be appearing at a Greenwich Village theatre this year with a quintet headed by outstanding bass-player Charlie Mingus.

A fall tour of U.S. colleges — he and the late Dylan Thomas are top rated by college students—is also on the agenda of the man described by author Henry Miller as "one of the truly greats, a writer of unmistakable genius."

However, all of poet Patchen's plans are dependent upon the state of his health, precarious since a youthful spinal injury.

One of the things that Mr. Patchen—who lives at Palo Alto, Calif.—objects to most is being associated with San Francisco's "Beatnik" colony.

"I am certainly not one of them," he said emphatically.

"I don't like being made to appear another monkey-on-a-string," he said.

The Beatnik outburst is just another passing phase, he said, "like the goldfish-eating craze.

"They're just a bunch of defeated people messing up everyone's living rooms."

And what's more, he added, the Beatnik group "has no existence as a literary movement."

The poet summed up the Beatnik set as an "indication on the part of a minority of youth their dissatisfaction with life . . . a hunger. . . ."

Mr. Patchen passed on a leading critic's remark in dismissing the Beatniks: "Patchen said it all 20 years ago."

But Patchen is still saying it—as he will be tonight, seated on a stool and wearing his famous scarlet coat.

Here's one of the poems he will be saying, entitled "Lonesome Boy Blues:"

Oh nobody's a long time
Nowhere's a big pocket
To put little
Pieces of nice things that

Have never really happened

To anyone except
Those people who were
lucky enough
Not to get born
Oh lonesome's a bad place

To get crowded into

With only
Yourself riding back and
forth
On
A blind white horse
Along an empty road
meeting
All your
Pals face to face

Nobody's a long time.

Fire Damages Saanich Home

Fire yesterday caused an estimated $1,000 damage to the home and furnishings of Sawarn Singh, 3420 Wascana.

The blaze, which started about 10 a.m., gutted a rear bedroom and damaged the attic and roof, Saanich firemen said. It is believed to have been caused by faulty wiring.